

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /054 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5007

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ROME 0215

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PHILLIP AGEE PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PHILLIP AGEE, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK INSIDE THE COMPANY: CIA DIARY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ROME, JANUARY 7, TO MARK PUBLICATION OF ITALIAN EDITION HIS BOOK. PUBLISHER, AND SPONSOR OF PRESS CONFERENCE, IS EDITORI RIUNITI, A PUBLISHING HOUSE THAT IS OPERATED BY ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

2. DURING CONFERENCE, AGEE INDICATED THAT HIS CURRENT MISSION IS TO SEEK OUT AND REVEAL IDENTITIES OF CIA AGENTS AT US DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. HE STATED THAT HIS RESEARCH HERE HAD LED HIM TO TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WERE BETWEEN 40 AND 45 AGENTS ATTACHED TO ROME EMBASSY AND THAT STATION CHIEF WAS "HUGH MONTGOMERY, A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR." HE SAID HE WOULD SOON PUBLISH NAMES OF ALL THE AGENTS SUPPOSEDLY ATTACHED TO EMBASSY.

3. AGEE PRESS CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 40 JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING A USIS ITALIAN STAFF MEMBER WHOSE REPORT THIS COMMUNICATION IS BASED UPON. APPARENTLY, MOST IF NOT ALL JOURNALISTS PRESENT WERE ITALIAN. THEY REPRESENTED LARGE CROSS-SECTION OF ITALIAN MEDIA, WITH PARTICULARLY STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM COMMUNIST DAILIES, L'UNITA' AND PAESE SERA.

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4. ALSO DURING CONFERENCE, AGREE SPOKE ABOUT HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS AGENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND EVENTS RECORDED IN HIS BOOK. HE ALSO REFERRED TO ALLEGED CIA BANKROLLING OF ITALIAN NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES DURING 1950S AND EARLY-60S. THE SUBJECT OF RECENT NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON CIA IN ITALY WAS TOUCHED ON ONLY IN PASSING.

5. REPORT ON PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARS IN JANUARY 8 MORNING EDITION OF COMMUNIST-LINE NEWSPAPER PAESE SERA. NOTEWORTHY THAT THIS IS THE ONLY PLAY SO FAR.VOLPE

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